

**Marathi Shala**  
**Marathi Bhashik Mandal, Toronto. Inc. Canada**

All students are welcomed to register in the Marathi classes whether they are attending the public, private, catholic or French immersion schools.

Following information of your child is required to register online for Marathi Language at International Language Program offered by Toronto District School Board in North York and Peel District School Board in Mississauga.

-- Student number

-- Emergency contact name and phone number

-- Registration fee \$20/student (payable online by credit/debit card)

**East Toronto Marathi Classes**                      **Registration -- Online**

**Online Registration open:** [www.ileprograms.ca](http://www.ileprograms.ca)

**Marathi Class on Saturday, Sept.-- June    Time 9:00 AM –11:30 AM**

**Venue:**                      Woodbine Jr. High School, 2900 Don Mills Road, North York. ON. M2J 3B6

[Located at one block north of Fairview Mall Drive on Don Mills Road]

**Contact:**                      Jyoti Mulye (416) 391-5221, Sheetal Patil (647) 741-0704

**West Toronto Marathi Classes**                      **Registration -- Online**

**Online Registration open:**

<http://www.peelschools.org/parents/programs/international/register/Pages/default.aspx>

Click on "Register" and follow School-Day class registration instructions.

[https://www.school-day.com/pg/groups/registration\\_select\\_public/20/PDS/28](https://www.school-day.com/pg/groups/registration_select_public/20/PDS/28)

**Marathi Class on Saturday, Sept.-- June    Time 10:00 AM –12:30 PM**

**Venue:**                      T. L. Kennedy Secondary School. 3100 Hurontario Street.  
Mississauga, ON L5B 1N7

[Located at North West corner of Dundas Street and Hurontario Street]

**Contact:**                      Vijaya Markandey (905)956-1355, Deepali Joshi (647) 448-4301

## History and Highlights

**1976 - 1984**



Marathi classes started in Toronto just over thirty years back. Sharad Kawale, put forward the idea of Marathi teaching. Shriram Mulgund, Asha Pawagi, Sharad Kawale, Mandatai Tilak got together and formalized the in house classrooms as per students' age group and with convenience of demographic region. Shriram Mulgund took the lead to organize the satellite informal classes. Each Sunday many volunteer parents held the role as teachers for five to six classes in North York, Scarborough, Brampton and Mississauga. Multi level age group children attended these classes. The classes continued in the homes of teachers or parents with genuine interest, strong commitments and passion for Marathi Language learning.

Volunteer teaching services were provided by Sharad Kaka Kawale, Shriram Mulgund, Anand Manohar, Mandatai Tilak, Asha Pawagi, Pusha Wagale, Lalita Godse, Mangal Junnarkar, Meena Ghanekar, Pravina Kale and Sunanda Tumne during these years.

Marathi Learning activity is always supported and held under the umbrella of Marathi Bhashik Mandal, Toronto, Inc. MBM provided the community room place, the guidance and the funding for books, crafts and other teaching materials.

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**1985**

### **Sir John A McDonald Secondary School, Scarborough, ON.**

As the enrolment started to increase; Sunanda Tumne instigated the idea of having all Marathi classes under one umbrella. With greater interest from parents and students; Marathi Bhashik Mandal requested Scarborough Board of Education to provide two classrooms facility for the "home grown" satellite classes to regular classroom classes at Sir John A. McDonald Secondary School in Scarborough. Sunanda Tumne and Keshav Godse served as teachers.

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**1986 – 1992****The Woodbine / Vanier Secondary School, North York Board of Education. ON**

This activity was so successful that Sunanda Tumne spearheaded the “Marathi Shala” project that Marathi classes should start under Canada’s Heritage Language Program. Dr. Madhav Khandekar took keen interest in this step. In the fall of 1986, two Marathi classes started for age group 4-12. Third

class started for age group 14 –18 children since Heritage Language Program was restricted up to regular day school grade 8 students. Two more classes started In Mississauga, at T.L Kennedy School under the International Language Program with Peel Board Of Education.

**1986- 1992** --Dr. Madhav Khandekar worked as a MBM Marathi Shala co-coordinator. The classroom program was structured in to three Level – Basic, Intermediate and Advance Levels.

Shalan Khandekar, Sudhana Ranade, Sunanda Tumne, Keshav Godse, Lalita Godse, Mangala Junnarkar, Vinita Ratnaparakhe, Meena Gandhi and Sumitra Thakur served as teachers who took tremendous efforts and energy to carry out these teaching program activities. All students, their parents, teachers and Marathi Bhashik Mandal of Toronto supported the program with whole heart and dedication. The main focus was on four R’s of Marathi Language – reading writing, speaking and understanding. Along with Marathi Language learning; children enjoyed cooking lessons from Leelatai Tembe, music lessons and gym classes. Students learned Marathi games such as Kho Kho, Hututu, Ram Ravan, Talyat-Malyat and Lagori, Surya Namaskars and Yoga. Total of 87 children registered and had taken advantages of Marathi school during year 1986-1992. Half an hour of Gym time helped the students to learn Marathi through Marathi games and build a very strong youth friendship by participations.

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**1986**

Asha Pawagi suggested a novel idea of Marathi Children’s Outdoors camp that became a grand success. Total of 50 children attended the three days summer camp. Fifteen parents volunteered as councillors. Shashi Karandikar taught Yoga classes. Children enjoyed

Yoga, games of Hu Tu Tu, Viti Dandu and Lagori. A bon fire was lit and children presented humorous Marathi skits.

Now Marathi Bhashik Mandal, Inc has under taken this responsibility of Youth activity as a regular summer camp and MBM manages this camp very well.

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### 1987

Twenty-five teenage children rehearsed and performed full-length Marathi drama **“Premachya Gava Jave”** at Diwali program. Shalan Khandekar, Sudhana Ranade and Leena Ghanekar produced, directed and coordinated the play. This play was unique because of the character casting. Set of students who performed characters in the first act was replaced by another group of students in the second act. That way more students could participate and fewer lines to memorize. Younger group of students performed a short One-act play called, **“Shakti Peksha Yukti Shreshth”**. Mrs. Watave wrote the short play. Rajashree Manohar coordinated the play. Both plays received an overwhelming response and applause from the audience.

Natak 1987 -- Shakti Peksha Ukti Shreshth

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### 1990

Grade 10 OAC (Ontario Credit Course) credit course was developed and taught by Sunanda Tumne. This course was credited towards regular Ontario daytime high school credit course system. Twelve students took advantage of this course. Five mature non-Marathi adult students enrolled in the Marathi class. Grade 11 OAC course was also developed together by Sunanda Tumne and Shalan Khandekar but cancelled due to lack of enrolment. Eventually junior and senior Marathi Class program discontinued in 1991. As students matured, joined the universities then student enrolment dropped and classes discontinued for few years.

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### 1991 - 1995

Sunanda Tumne taught Marathi to Ms. Marianne Warren (Ph.D. student, University of Toronto) as a Marathi Language course curriculum requirement for her thesis work on Shirdi Sai Baba. Later Ms. Warren published a book called **“Unravelling the Enigma: Shirdi Sai Baba in the Light of Sufism”**. Ms. Warren acknowledged sincere gratitude to Sunanda Tumne in her book for teaching her Marathi Language and help with Marathi – English translations. <http://www.saibaba-x.org.uk/7/W/>

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**1996 - 1997**

Again in 1996, Sunanda Tumne started Marathi classes in the basement of her home in Mississauga. Also she served as a MBM Marathi Shala coordinator for Marathi teaching program. Meena Gandhi served as a teacher in 1996-1997. Children played "Rang Panchami" water play in the backyard.

**1997 -- 2000****The Valleys Secondary Public School, Mississauga, ON**

Sunanda Tumne approached Peel Board of Education to start Marathi Language Classes under International Language Program. Now Marathi class started again at The Valleys Public Secondary School in Mississauga every Sunday morning. Sunanda Tumne served as a teacher with current enrolment of 28 students in Mississauga. Student enrolment was 37 by year 2000. Veena Bopardikar served as a supply teacher. Sunanda Tumne prepared a structured Marathi Shala program in Basic, Intermediate and Advance level. She prepared lesson plans, teacher's guidance, short term and long-term outline of the course. Half an hour of Gym time enhanced Marathi learning through games and play activities. Sunanda Tumne acted as a MBM Marathi Shala coordinator for East and West end of the greater Toronto area.

**Oriole Community Centre, North York, ON**

Shree Nana Datar continued to serve as a teacher in North York and current enrolment was 11 students in North York. Shree Nana Datar continued to teach in east end Marathi school; Nita Tilak and Surekha Nimkar served as teachers for two other classes. The classes continued at the Oriole Community centre with support of Marathi Bhashik Mandal, Toronto Inc.

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**Sept. 1999**

Twenty-two children rehearsed and performed in a one act Marathi comedy play called "**Are Pan Ka?**" written by Sunanda Tumne. The theme of the play was a satire on "Threading Ceremony". It was jointly produced and directed by Leena Deodhare. Veena Bopardikar, Prakash Kale, Anagha Wad and Kishore Bapat managed the stage props, sound and lights. The play was a grand success with unbelievable standing ovation at the MBM Ganapati program.

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**2001 - 2002****The Valleys Secondary Public School, Peel Board of Education, Mississauga, ON**

Veena Bopardikar served as a Marathi Teacher. The student enrolment was 32. The Marathi school continued to be grand success with strong commitments by parents and students.

**Oriole Community Centre, North York, ON**

Shree Nana Datar and Nita Tilak continued serving as Marathi teachers in East end school at Oriole community centre with enrolment of 11 students.

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**2003 - 2005****The Valleys Secondary Public School, Mississauga, ON**

Meenal Joshi and Vijaya Markandey served as two Marathi teachers with strong enrolment of 36 students. Sunanda Tumne serves as a MBM Marathi Shala coordinator, mentor to the teachers and lesson planner. The second school continued to operate under the International Language Program in Mississauga. This year, Toronto East Marathi Shala classes discontinued due to the lack of enrolment in 2004-2005. Shree Ganesh Yaag Association made venue available at the Kalibari temple for the Mississauga school's year-end gathering in June 2005

**Oriole Community Centre, North York, ON**

Shree Nana Datar and Nita Tilak continued serving as Marathi teachers in East end school at Oriole community centre with enrolment of 15 students. Neena Randive helped as classroom volunteer.

**2005 - 2009****Don Valley Junior High School, Toronto District School Board of Education, ON**

Sunanda Tumne made persistent efforts in Sept. 2005; to organize and to hold Marathi classes under the structured program with grand success. Again this year, Marathi classes in East Toronto were organized under the Toronto District School Board of Education. Twenty-eight students registered in Sept.2005 for the East Toronto area. The Saturday morning classes are held at Don Valley Jr. High School. Sunanda Tumne served as a teacher for 4 months. Ashwini Deodhar served as teacher from Dec.2005-2009. Jyoti Mulye served as a supply teacher.

**2005****The Valleys Secondary Public School, Peel Board of Education, Mississauga, ON**

Toronto West classes continued at the Valleys School in Mississauga every Sunday

morning with strong enrolment of 40 students. Meenal Joshi and Vijaya Markandey served as a MBM Marathi Shala coordinator. Deoyani Ballal served with tremendous dedication as a classroom volunteer for 4 years.

### **2006 -- 2008**

#### **T.L. Kennedy Secondary School, Peel Board of Education, Mississauga, ON**

Vijaya Markandey and Sunanda Tumne served as teachers. A strong enrolment of 46 students continued with two classes. Vrinda Atre and Suneeta Joshi served as supply teachers.

#### **Don Valley J. H. School, Toronto District School Board of Education, ON**

Ashwini Deodhar served as east end teacher with enrolment of 30 students.

Madhuri Bapat (Thacher, AZ) provided the self-designed "Rangoli" T-shirts (Qty. 52) for both Marathi Shala students and teachers as a generous gift in June 2007.

#### **November 2008 -- Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal (BMM) project initiative**

Leena Deodhare perceived and initiated this project for BMM as a Marathi Shala. BMM accepted and invited all Mandals to participate at BMM 2020 in Philadelphia. The Marathi Shala curriculum is developed and produced by Sunanda Tumne with the contribution from Vijaya Bapat (North Carolina) along with help from the team of teachers from Toronto, Mississauga and North Carolina. The elementary, intermediate and advance curriculum is developed within eight months of hard work.

#### **December 2008 - Marathi Shala, One-Day Summer Camp**

Ashwini Deodhar initiated and organized meticulously the winter camp for both East and West end Marathi Shala students. Ashwini and Amit Deodhar managed exceptionally well the registration, food, games and prizes. All students enjoyed it thoroughly. As usual MBM supported the activity with venue. Vijaya Markandey, Sunanda Tumne, Jyoti Mulye, Sanheeta Khasnis and volunteer parents helped make the day camp successful.

Every year end, all students continually showed their Marathi leaning and speaking talent with performances of the skits, project presentation, reciting poems, story telling and reading lessons etc. at the "Snehsammelan" gathering. MBM awarded the prizes, certificates to students and appreciation gifts to teachers.

### **2009 -- 2010**

#### **Sept. 2009 -- June 2010**

#### **The Woodbine Junior High School, North York, ON**

Jyoti Mulye served as a teacher. Pradnya Soman helped as classroom volunteer. Total of 32 students registered in the East Toronto Marathi class.

#### **T.L. Kennedy Secondary School, Mississauga, ON**



A third Marathi class started in Mississauga. Vijaya Markendey and Sunanda Tumne served as teachers. Vrinda Atre, Suneeta Joshi served as substitute teacher. Uma Ambike, Sanheeta Khasnis, Nandini Bapat helped as classroom volunteers. Total 59 students registered in three classes.

### **June 2009 -- BMM Marathi Shala Curriculum**

A final version of BMM Marathi Shala curriculum is printed. Initially BMM introduced this pilot project to six Mandals then extended to 16 locations. Sunanda Tumne coordinated and trained all 16 Marathi Shala locations in the North America that are part of extended BMM BV Marathi Shala project. All Shala locations received the BMM Marathi Shala curriculum binders. Student enrolment response was great with total around 500 students.

### **Sept. 2009 -- MBM Ganapati program**



Jyoti Mulye directed a short play "Daduche Ghar Unhat" written by Sunanda Tumne at the MBM Ganapati program. Eighteen students participated in the play. The play had flavour of comedy, children's adventure and musical conclusion. The audience received this play with joy and laughter. The audience was amazed to hear well-versed Marathi from the kids. Participation and help of all parents made this play so successful.

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### **2010 -- 2012**

#### **Sept. 2010 -- June 2011**

#### **Woodbine Junior High School, North York. ON**

Jyoti Mulye served as a teacher and Geeta Sawant as a classroom volunteer. Total of 33 students registered in East end classes.

### **T.L. Kennedy Secondary School, Mississauga, ON**

Vijaya Markendey, Sunanda Tumne and Uma Ambike served as teachers to three classes with enrolment of 73 students. Deoyani Ballal, Nandini Bapat and Vrinda Atre served as supply teachers. Chitale Ajoba and six grade 9 high school students served as classroom volunteers through out the year.

### **Jan. 2010**

Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal had signed MOU with Bharati Vidhyapith in Pune, India to have affiliation, to produce Marathi Bhasha exams and to award certificates for Marathi learning. Sunanda Tumne worked with Bharati Vidhyapith team to formalise and create the exams based on BMM Marathi Shala curriculum and guidelines in Pune. Also the team worked on to produce two practice books. BV printed the books.

### **May 2011 -- Marathi Shala Banner**

This is first year where total of 106 students were learning Marathi Language under Ontario's International Language Program. Shashank Chitale designed, created and produced Toronto Marathi Shala banner for free of charge.



West end classes had "Snehasammelan" where students presented poems, Marathi readings, Vegetables, fruits and Marathi cultural symbols. Older group presented skit about eco friendly earth and pollution in Marathi.

East end classes had an outdoor picnic and water fight play in the park. Many parents sponsored the food and gifts to make these programs successful

### **May 2011 -- Marathi Bhasha Exams -- BMM and BV**

Sunanda Tumne worked along with BV team Sindhutai Kulkarni on setting up the sample exam papers, logistics and other required details. Each exam level contained 40% marks written exam and 60% marks oral exam. Total of 26 students from East and West end Toronto Marathi classes appeared for the Pahili and Dusar (Level 1-2) exams. All Toronto students passed with grades A and B. Total of 141 students from USA and Canada appeared for these exams at 11 Shala locations. The certificates are given at the

BMM 2011 Chicago convention. Bharati Khopakar (Richmond, VA) designed the bilingual Marathi Bhasha certificate in Marathi and English.

### **June 25, 2011 -- Marathi Shala Summer Day Camp**

Uma Ambike organized and planned a perfect one full day activity along with help from other teachers and parents. Total of 52 students attended and enjoyed the Surya Namaskar, Shivaji presentation, games, competitions, how to draw and paint Warali prints, make "Palakhi" craft and learn "Baitha Kho Kho". Prasad Gokhale and Jayant Mulye presented the Maratha King Shivaji Raja.

### **July 2011**

MBM president Pravina Kale and team nominated Sunanda Tumne for her outstanding community service and dedicated Marathi Shala work. BMM honoured and recognized her work. Ratnakar Matakari presented her the award at BMM Chicago convention 2011.

### **Sept 2011 -- Ganapati Program**



Marathi Shala Mississauga presented children's musical short play "Aappal Potyaa Raakshas" at MBM Ganapati program. Shri. Narale translated the theme from "Selfish Giant" into Marathi. Rasika Jog directed and produced the play with 21 students. Deepak Sant composed and produced the music. Ballal family created the props of castle, trees and fences. Rasika Jog acted out as a BIG GIANT superbly. The play was great success with help of Uma Ambike, Deoyani Ballal, Nandini Bapat and all parents.

### **Sept 2011 -- June 2012**

#### **T.L. Kennedy Secondary School, Mississauga, ON Woodbine Junior High School, North York. ON**

Uma Ambike, Vijaya Markandey, Deoyani Ballal and Jyoti Mulye served as teachers. Sunanda Tumne, Nandini Bapat, Vrinda Atre and Geeta Samant served as substitute teachers. The total student enrolment is 93 students in 4 Marathi classes.

Total 19 students gave BMM BV Marathi Bhasha Exams 2012. They passed with excellent grades A / B in the Pahili, Dusari, Tisari exams (Level 1-3).

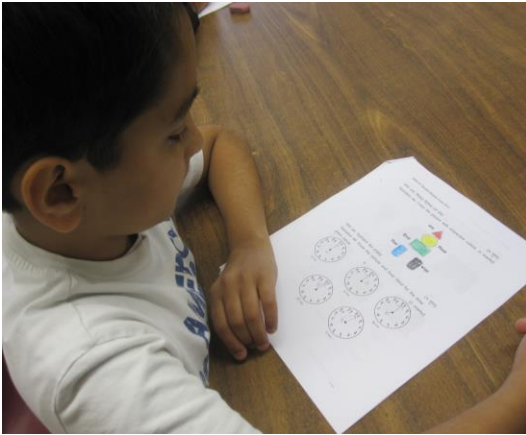
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### Sept. 2012 -- June 2013

**T.L. Kennedy Secondary School, Mississauga, ON**  
**Woodbine Junior High School, North York. ON**

Vijaya Markandey, Deoyani Ballal and Jyoti Mulye served as teachers. Sunanda Tumne, Nandini Bapat, Vrinda Atre served as supply teachers. The total enrolment is 82 students in 3 classes. Total 52 students enjoyed one day Shibir with fun filled activities such as Yogasane by Girish Shanbag, presentation on discovery of Dwarka by Achary guruji, making Ganapati idols from modelling clay, craft and fun games.

Toronto Marathi Shala Day Shibir 2013



Total 28 students gave BMM BV Marathi Bhasha Exams 2013. They passed with excellent grades A / B in the Pahili, Dusari, Tisari and Chauthee exams (Level 1-4).

Toronto Shala students contributed with drawings essay and write up in the first digital publication of BMM Marathi Shala Diwali eAnk 2013. <http://bmmshala.net/>

**BMM Marathi Shala Diwali eAnk 2013**

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### Sept. 2013 -- June 2017

**T.L. Kennedy Secondary School, Mississauga, ON  
Woodbine Junior High School, North York. ON**

Vijaya Markandey, Deoyani Ballal and Jyoti Mulye served as teachers. Sunanda Tumne, Surekha Joshi served as supply teachers. Students appeared for BMM BV exams annually. Marathi Shala students produced "Samuhgeet" at BMM 2017 convention.

BMM Shala produced calendar and Diwali Ank in 2016. Total 594 students appeared for BMM BV exams Level 1 - Level 5.

Sept.2017 -- Total 72 students registered. Two classes are conducted in Mississauga and one class at Woodbine location. Jyoti Mulye, Vijaya Markandey and Sunanda Tumne served as teachers.

**Oct. 8, 2017**

Toronto Marathi Shala (East and West ) classes presented "Maharashtra bhumi Aamuchee" samuhgeet at MBM golden jubilee celebration.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2EVTG4SFz5Eb1VMTHV3azVncDQ>

**Sept.2018 – June 2019**

**Adult Education Center. Mississauga, ON  
Woodbine Junior High School, North York. ON**

Total 101 students' registered in the classes (East 27 – 1 class, West 74 – 3 classes) Vijaya Markandey, Deepali Joshi, Meena Jadhav, Surekha Joshi, Jyoti Mulye served as teachers.

We had a grand one day Diwali camp. 65 students and 18 councillors helped to make it memorable. Girish Shanbhag taught Yougasane, Vivek Joshi gave presentation on "Transportation and vehicles. Students learned and played games, made आकाश कंदील, पणत्या. All enjoyed श्रीखंड पुरी जेवण.

<http://bmmshala.net/photo-gallery/2018>

Total 24 students passed BMM Marathi exams successfully (Level 1 – 14, Level 2 – 6, Level 3 – 4) Yash Joshi won the first prize in the BMM students' debt/speech competition. Four students participated in the event. Shala students wrote articles in the BMM Diwali Ank

**Sept. 2019 – June 2020**

**Adult Education Center. Mississauga, ON**

**Woodbine Junior High School, North York. ON**

Total 138 students are registered in the Marathi classes (East 45 – 2 classes, West 93 – 4 classes) Vijaya Markandey, Deepali Joshi, Meena Jadhav, Surekha Joshi, Jyoti Mulye, Sheetal Patil, Ashwini Barve served as teachers.

Marathi camp was cancelled due to higher cost of gym rental charges \$950 plus other expenses. We will seek sponsors for the next event.

24 students passed BMM Marathi exam with outstanding grades. (Level 1 – 11, Level 2 – 5, Level 3 – 4, Level 4 – 4)

BMM Shala started Online classes for grade 9 and up students. Total 9 students registered and completed the courses successfully.



**Sept. 2020 – June 2021**

**T.L. Kennedy Secondary School, Mississauga, ON  
Woodbine Junior High School, North York. ON**

This year marked the year of global pandemic (COVID-19) called Corona virus. All Marathi classes started online learning as outlined by the directives of PDSB and TDSB with use of Google classroom. This year, the highest registration number took place. Total of 187 students enrolled into Marathi classes (East 73 – 3 classes, West 114 – 5 classes). Vijaya Markandey, Sunanda Tumne, Deepali Joshi, Meena Jadhav, Surekha Joshi, Jyoti Mulye, Sheetal Patil, Ashwini Barve served as teachers.

MBM committee helped to produce Marathi Shala information session live online on MBM facebook page.

BMM Marathi exams are postponed until Mar. 2021 due to pandemic lockdown.